

**WINTER  
2004**



# The FLAP

News for the Folks of Lake Accotink Park

[www.lakeaccotinkpark.com](http://www.lakeaccotinkpark.com)

703-569-3464



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## Thanks For Asking: What is Happening With Dredging?

Many inquiries have been received recently regarding the status of the Lake Accotink Park dredging project. Originally the project was to have begun last winter. This was delayed, however, because the project received only one bid, which was \$2 million more than the funds allotted for the project in the 1998 Park Bond Program. This bid, placed in December 2003 was rejected by Fairfax County Park Authority and the Department of Public Works (DPW), who is managing the project. A number of options were considered including rebidding the original project in hopes of gaining more bids, revising the bid documents to transfer more risk to the owner, and to reconsider the mechanical dredging option in hopes it was cheaper. DPW chose to investigate the bid and estimate to determine why the single bid was so much higher than anticipated.

The original project called for the removal of 161,000 cubic yards of sedimentation from Lake Accotink over a 26-month time period. This dredge was to be hydraulic rather than mechanical so as to minimally disrupt

the park's regular operations and to impact as little as possible the surrounding neighborhoods. The material dredged from the lake was to be pumped to a disposal site three miles away at Virginia Concrete in the Shirley Industrial Complex by a pipeline running alongside the Norfolk and Southern rail line. The Fairfax County Department of Public Works conducted a post-bid interview with the one engineering firm that did bid on the project, Mobile Dredging, to determine why the bid was 50 percent higher than the engineer's estimate for the project. The Department of Public Works also hired an independent construction cost estimator, McDonough Bolyard Peck (MBP), to review the bid documents as well as to provide new opinions on the costs of hydraulic and mechanical dredging.

One reason the bid turned out so high was due to soil conditions at the disposal site. In order to contain the dredged material, a 20 foot tall dam embankment would need to be constructed. Poor soil conditions discovered at the disposal site would make construction of

the dam embankment more costly than anticipated and may have required additional work on the site in the future.

McDonough Bolyard Peck determined hydraulic and mechanical dredging would be similar in cost if the hydraulic dredging plan was revised to require the use of woven geotextile bags for dewatering materials dredged from Lake Accotink. Geotextile bags are large porous bags into which the dredged materials are pumped. Polymers are mixed into the bags which hastens the separation of the soil and water. The water is then channeled out of the bags into a holding facility and then back to Lake Accotink. After the bags are completely dewatered, they are cut open and the soil that remains is either shipped out to a site in need of soil or used onsite. In this case, Virginia Concrete, will be using the dewatered soil on site. By using these bags, the dam embankment would not need to be constructed at the

*(continued on page 4)*

## December 28, 1862 J.E.B Stuart's Raid on Burke Station

"There was considerable excitement in Alexandria late yesterday evening, growing out [of] a hurried arrival there of a number of countrymen and teamsters. The latter were mounted on horses cut from their own wagons. These men confirm the former state-

ment that Stuart's cavalry, with light artillery, appeared at Pohick Church, several miles from Mount Vernon, Saturday night, and on Sunday proceeded to Accotink, which is twelve miles from Alexandria, and there attacked several

companies of our troops with considerable damage. It is also reported, but not confirmed, that they captured a long transportation train at Occoquan on Saturday. It is currently reported today that Accotink

*(Continued on page 2)*

Check out the center insert for Accotink Park's exciting winter classes! Register today!

Stop by the Witness to History exhibit at Lake Accotink Park's main office to see a photo of the rebuilt trestle during the Civil War and read other original accounts of the trestle's burning.

(December 28, 1862 continued from pg. 1)

bridge, on the Orange and Alexandria line, was destroyed by the Confederates in this raid." - The Philadelphia Inquirer, 30 December 1862

Originally built in 1851 as part of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, the railroad trestle in what is now Lake Accotink Park was originally constructed of wood and would have been about half as high as the present day trestle. Because wooden structures were easy to destroy quickly, it made an attractive target to Confederate raiders. The trestle here was doubly attractive because it was part of the Union supply line.



Confederate Major General J.E.B. Stuart is considered by some to be the most famous cavalryman of the Civil War.

On 28 December 1862, J.E.B. Stuart and his cavalry command raided nearby-Burke Station in an attempt to disrupt the

Union's supply and communications lines in the area. While the rest of Stuart's men tore up railroad track and telegraph lines, 12 men under the command of Fitz Lee were dispatched to burn the railroad bridge over Accotink Creek. In addition to the destruction of the rail and telegraph lines, Stuart and his men captured a number of supplies. Before withdrawing from the area, he had his telegraph operator send a sarcastic telegram to the US Quartermaster General, Montgomery Meigs, complaining about the quality of the mules being "furnished" to him.

December 28, 2004 will be the 142nd anniversary of this action, which was extremely alarming to northern citizens because of its close proximity to Washington, DC.

## It's Strictly for the Birds!-

### Lake Accotink Park Expands Pet Classes



Jeb, an Indian Ring-necked Parrot

Starting this January, Lake Accotink Park will be expanding its pet related classes to include bird care class. No matter what kind or size of bird you are interested in adopting, they all present unique challenges for their owners. Most birds have a long life expectancy and require a lot of commitment on the part of their owners.

If you are thinking about getting a bird as a pet or even if you already have one, this class is for you. It will help give you the knowledge you need to provide your bird with a good home and make your relationship with your bird a rewarding one. Topics to be covered include how to properly handle your bird, how to provide proper nutrition, health care, cages and toys. Additionally, an introduction to clicker training will be given and parrot behavior in the wild will be discussed as a framework for understanding parrots at home.

The class is six sessions for \$99. The first class will be Wednesday January 7th. Please do not bring your bird to class. The class will be taught by members of Phoenix Landing, a parrot advocacy group.

## Spring Break Camp Employment Opportunities

March 21-25, 2005



**Counselors are needed for the following camps:**

- Watershed Exploration
- Tennis (ages 8-13)
- Doggone Fun Camp

**Preferred qualifications include a general interest in the subject matter and ability to work well with children. Must be at least 18 years old.**

**Call 703-569-3464 or stop by the main office for more information or to request an application.**

Have a wonderful winter season! - From the Staff at Lake Accotink Park

## Spring Break Camps: (They Fill Up Fast!)

It's not too early to start thinking about Spring Break! Remember, Spring Break comes early this year for Fairfax County public school students: March 21-25. If you are looking for a fun and rewarding Spring Break experience for your child, consider Lake Accotink Park's Spring Break camps.

- For the third year, Lake Accotink Park will offer **Watershed Exploration Camp** for students between the ages of eight and 13. Nature enthusiasts and any child who loves the outdoors and is naturally curious will enjoy this camp. Campers will find out what creatures live in the streams and lake as well as fascinating facts about watersheds and how they connect with the larger world. Activities include stream monitoring, hiking, canoeing, experiments and more!
- Lake Accotink Park will also offer **Tennis Camp** for children aged eight - 13. Tennis is a wonderful sport that can be played at recreational and competitive levels and is a sport that encourages lifelong fitness. Campers will learn new tennis skills, work on improving old ones and have fun outdoors.
- New this year for Spring Break is Lake Accotink Park's popular **Doggone Fun Camp**, which allows campers and their dogs to have fun together while learning about pet responsibility and bonding with their animal. Practical skills such as dog grooming, training, recognizing illness and injury and more will be taught.

Watershed Exploration Campers from past Spring Breaks will know what finding damselfly larvae in a stream means!



## Announcing Lake Accotink Park's Annual Pet Pictures with Santa Claws



Saturday December 11

Noon - 2 pm

\$5 per pet

Bring your furry, feathered or scaled friend to Lake Accotink Park to sit with Santa! Your pet's photo will be captured on disk for you to keep.

Call 703-569-0285 to register

## Stay Safe This Winter!

Keep these safety tips in mind this season as you and your loved ones (both two legged and four legged) enjoy the frosty weather and the holidays.

- Keep poisonous plants out of reach of all those who may be tempted to put things in their mouth or take a nibble—these include holly, mistletoe, amaryllis, azalea, boxwood, Christmas rose, and English ivy.
- Never leave a child or a pet unattended in a vehicle for any length of time
- Check smoke alarm batteries every six months
- Use child and pet-safe decorations
- Give age-appropriate toys to children and include appropriate safety gear-

helmets, knee and elbow pads, etc.

- Be aware the sun sets earlier in the winter when out exercising or traveling— let someone know where you are going and when you intend to return or take a buddy with you
- Remember pets are susceptible to frost-bite as well as people



- Ice skating is NOT allowed at Lake Accotink Park or other outdoor parks.
- Street salt and other deicers can irritate pets' feet
- If your car gets stuck in the snow, only run the heater for about ten minutes every hour. Also make sure the exhaust pipe remains clear of snow to prevent dangerous fumes from backing up into the car
- A winter storm WATCH means a storm could happen in your area. A winter storm WARNING means a storm is headed for your area. Listen to your local news to keep abreast of information.

(Thanks for Asking! continued from page 1)

disposal site. Using these bags also offered other advantages over both mechanical dredging and the previous hydraulic dredge plan.

These benefits include reducing the duration of work at Lake Accotink Park from 16 months to eight months to further minimize disruption of park operations because the sedimentation can be pumped at a faster rate. The duration of work at the disposal site should also be reduced from five years to two years, which should make the project more appealing to bidders. Prolonged work at a site may mean unexpected problems and costs could arise, which makes some companies hesitant to get involved. The bags eliminate the need for the costly dam embankment structure. The bags are also more environmentally friendly than other dewatering methods and still prevent the need for trucks to run through the park and surrounding neighborhoods.

Another question related to the dredging project that has been asked frequently, is why only 161,000 cubic yards of sedimentation will be removed as opposed to the originally planned 220,000 cubic yards. This is because of additional unexpected costs related to the project. One major expense has been acquiring the permits to pipe the dredged material along the rail line.

### Timeline for Lake Accotink Park Dredging Project

- **November 2004:** advertise the project for bids
- **December 2004-January 2005:** the project will be open for bids
- **January 2005:** obtain contract approval from Park Authority Board
- **January/February 2005:** obtain contract approval from Board of Supervisors
- **February/March 2005:** give notice to proceed to contractor
- **May/June 2006:** project should be completed

**If you have additional questions, please contact:**

Erin Lawrence,  
703-324-8575

Email: [erin.lawrence@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:erin.lawrence@fairfaxcounty.gov)

### 10 Fun Things to Do at Lake Accotink Park During the Winter

1. Look for animal tracks in the snow
2. Bring a thermos of hot chocolate and admire the stillness of the lake on a winter's afternoon
3. Go on the New Year's night hike and listen for owls
4. Have your pet's photo taken with Santa Claws on December 11
5. Learn how to paint or draw- take an art class at Lake Accotink Park
6. Teach an old (or new) dog new tricks - attend a dog tricks class with your canine companion
7. Take a hike around the lake one afternoon and observe how different the woods look in the winter.
8. Grab a pair of binoculars and go birding. How many different species of birds can you see?
9. Buy a trout fishing pass for spring trout season in mid-February
10. Organize your own park clean-up



## 2004 Elly Doyle Park Sevice Award Winners: Ravensworth Farm Civic Association

It is a fact that parks cannot be successful without active public support. Volunteers help parks accomplish more than they ever could alone. **Ravensworth Civic Association** has been closely associated with and very supportive of Lake Accotink Park from the inception of both the park and the community. It has had long and significant positive impact on the park.

Under Richard and Martha Sargent's leadership for the past 40 years, **Ravensworth Farm Civic Association** has helped to organize and implement the annual spring clean up of Lake Accotink Park and the Accotink Creek. On average, over 100 volunteers participate, collecting more than 300 bags of trash.

When Supervisor Sharon Bulova was organizing her free Friday night summer concert series, Braddock Nights at Lake Accotink Park she knew that she could count on **Ravensworth Farm Civic Association** to help out. Residents from that association put up signs and help with the duties associated with the concerts.

When Lake Accotink Park was researching local history for the Witness to History exhibit at the main office, the citizens of **Ravensworth Farm** donated generously of their time, financial donations and historical artifacts. The exhibit could not be so comprehensive without their assistance. Donations from residents include two aerial photos, a brick from the Ravensworth silo, a

stool from the carriage house, a piece of cemetery fence, minie balls and grape shot..

Civic Association members support Lake Accotink Park through a variety of projects. A butterfly garden was planted in the traffic circle at the marina, providing some welcome natural habitat.

Ravensworth Farm Civic Association members are true advocates of the park. Several attend all lake dredging planning meetings as well as the meetings of the Braddock District Parks Citizen Advisory Committee.

The staff at Lake Accotink Park believes the continued support by this group makes them worthy of the 2004 Elly Doyle Award.

## Check-It-Out:

### Catch up with the new and exciting things going on at Lake Accotink Park!

**Have you heard...** about the vandalism to the Carrleigh Parkway kiosk and the orienteering course? Both of these were Eagle Scout projects and took much planning and hard work by the young men who completed them. Join Lake Accotink Park's Trail Watch program and help keep the park safe and enjoyable for everyone. If you like spending time in the park, this program is for you! Call 703-569-0285 for more information or an application.

**Have you noticed....** the pallets of stone at the marina? The retaining walls started at the Large Lakeview Pavilion will soon be finished. This will not only improve the appearance of the shelter, but it will help keep the mulch from washing downhill and make the area around the restrooms more level.

**And...** the landscaped beds on the islands in the Heming Avenue entrance parking lot?

This beautification project was accomplished with plants that were donated or grown here at the park.

**Have you seen...** the Adopt-A-Highway signage on Accotink Park Road? Four clean-ups each year must be reported to the Virginia Department of Transportation to stay with the program. The first official clean-up took place October 16 as part of Lake Accotink Park's Annual Fall Watershed Clean-up. All together, volunteers working from 9 am - 4 pm collected approximately 70 bags of trash, two couches and a chest freezer from the park. Thank you to all of our hardworking volunteers!

**Don't forget to pick up...** a Spring *Park-Takes* magazine, available in February at parks, libraries, and other locations. This valuable tool helps you plan fun and enrichment into your spare time. Now is the time to get your child into one of Lake Accotink

Park's popular day camps during Spring Break and over the summer. Sign yourself up for an art class, outdoor fitness class, tai chi or yoga... or register Fluffy for dog obedience class. Spring is just around the corner, so seize the day! Your life will be better for it.

**And finally...** you may have noticed that Lake Accotink Park's carousel is horse-less during the winter months. This is because the carousel is an antique. The horses were built of hand carved wood and cast aluminum between 1926 and 1931. They are sensitive to the elements and are taken off the carousel when the weather becomes cold to be stored safely away. The park's maintenance staff also uses this time to give them a fresh coat of paint so they still look brand new. The carousel is reassembled and inspected for safety in April.



## Santa's Hayride

Saturday December 11th

5 pm - 7 pm

\$8 per child (parents ride free)

- Join Santa's helpers on his hay wagon as they escort you on a nighttime ride.
- Tell Santa what's on your wish list and have your photo taken with him on a keepsake disk.
- Warm yourself by a campfire and listen to holiday stories.

To register: Call 703-569-0285 for Visa or MasterCard registrations. Or mail a check made payable to "FCPA" with name, address, and telephone number to:  
7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield, Virginia, 22150.

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## Calendar of Events:

Advance registration is required. Please call 703-569-3464 or TTY 703-569-5200.

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### Specialty Events

#### Pet Pictures with Santa Claws

Bring your dog, cat or other furry friend to Lake Accotink Park for pictures with "Santa Claws."  
Your pet's special moment will be digitally captured on disk for you to keep.

\$5 per pet

Saturday December 11, Noon - 2 pm



#### Santa's Hayride

Join Santa's helpers on his hay wagon as they escort you on a magical nighttime ride to Santa Land! While there, tell Santa what's on your wish list and get your picture taken too. Your souvenir digital photo will be on a disk.  
While waiting, enjoy holiday stories around a campfire.



\$8 per child

Saturday December 11, 5 pm - 7 pm

#### New Years Night Hike

Observe the quiet hush of the winter forest, safe haven to residents who are deep into their long hibernation. The stillness provides a chance to hear the hoot of an owl, and learn about nocturnal activities of the forest inhabitants.  
Dress for the weather and please leave your flashlights at home.

\$4 per adult (16 years and up only)

Saturday January 1, 7 pm - 8:30 pm



#### Registration Information:

**By Phone:** Visa or Master Card reservations only

Please call 703-569-0285 or TTY 703-569-5200

**By Mail:** Send a check made payable to FCPA with participant's name, address, telephone number, and program title to:

Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield, Virginia 22150

**Refunds:** Only issued if class/program is canceled

**Fairfax County Park Authority**  
Lake Accotink Park



7500 Accotink Park Road  
Springfield, Virginia 22150

Phone: 703-569-0285

TTY: 703-569-5200

[www.lakeaccotinkpark.com](http://www.lakeaccotinkpark.com)

#### Park Management:

Tawny Hammond, Park Manager

Julie Tahan, Assistant Manager

Lee Ann Shenefiel, Operations Manager

Axel Boy, Evening Supervisor

Ed Miller, Grounds Supervisor

For FLAP comments or suggestions,  
please email:

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**ADA Accommodations:** Fairfax County is committed to giving all citizens equal access to recreation and leisure opportunities. In keeping with that policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations are provided to individuals with disabilities in all Park Authority programs, services, and facilities. ADA accommodations include sign interpreters, alternative information formats, program modifications and inclusion support. Contact the ADA Specialist at 703-324-8563 or (TTY) (703)803-3354 for additional information.